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NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU

AZAM KHAN

INDRANI MUKHERJEA

NAVJOT SIDHU WALKS IN; INDRANI, AZAM STEP OUT

Navjot Sidhu surrendered before a Patiala court on Friday to serve his one-year jail term over a 1988 road rage death case

NO AMENITIES IN WARD WHERE SIDHU IS LODGED

Sidhu is lodged in Ward 10 of the Patiala Central Jail with around 10 other inmates, sources said. There are no beds, televisions or other amenities in the ward. Elsewhere, Indrani Mukerjea, arrested for allegedly murdering her daughter Sheena Bora, was released from Mumbai's Byculla prison, two days after the Supreme Court granted her bail | P10

VEILED AZAM ATTACK ON SAMAJWADI PARTY

- Samajwadi Party's Azam Khan too was out of jail on Friday, a day after the apex court granted interim bail in a cheating case
- In what seemed like an attack on the SP leadership, Azam told media that "Those who put poison in the roots of these withered trees (referring to himself) were my own dear ones"

88
NUMBER OF CASES REGISTERED AGAINST AZAM KHAN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

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SC transfers Gyanvapi case to dist judge

Says better if a senior judicial officer hears it due to complexity & sensitivity of the matter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday transferred the Gyanvapi mosque case to the district judge in Varanasi from that of the civil judge (senior division) in the city, stating it is better if a senior and experienced judicial officer hears it because of the complexities and sensitivity of the matter.

The court also directed the district judge to prioritise an application of the mosque committee challenging the maintainability of the suit. It said its interim order of May 17 will continue till the maintainability is decided and eight weeks after that.

The SC also directed appropriate arrangements for *wuzu* (ablution before *namaz*) on the mosque premises if they have not been made already. In the May 17 order, the SC directed that the area where the 'Shivalinga' is indicated to have been found should be fully protected while Muslims should get free access to the mosque for worship.

The bench accepted the request of senior advocate Hufeza Ahmadi, appearing for the mosque committee, that the survey report should not be selectively leaked.

Ahmedi went on to argue that his challenge is to the trial court's decision to appoint the probe commission itself. "It is prohibited by the 1991 Act and the Constitution itself... Status quo that was in existence for the last 500 years has been altered. It is being sealed," he said.

The bench, however, said there are various nuances that will come into consideration. "The ascertainment of religious character of a place as a processual instrument may not fall foul of Section 3 or 4 of the Act. These are matters where we will not hazard an opinion," the court orally remarked.

On the question of maintainability, the bench said: "The moment you argue that the appointment of the commissioner is void ab initio because the suit is barred by the Act, it is far-fetched, because we can't decide the maintainability of suit here right now. We have to adopt fair process... We have to maintain peace and balance on the ground." It kept the special leave petition open and will hear the matter in July. P10

Bench's poser

"Suppose there is a Parsi temple and there is a cross in the corner of the area. Does the presence of Agyari make the cross Agyari or Agyari Christian? This hybrid character is not unknown," the bench orally said

Police deliberately killed gang-rape suspects: Panel

File photo of police at the site where four gang-rape suspects were shot dead, on the outskirts of Hyderabad | EXPRESS

WHAT NEXT — THREE SCENARIOS

1. Telangana High Court resuming hearing pending PILs, but does not take the Sirpurkar Commission report on record. Trial could then go back to the Sessions Court in the main case of gang-rape and murder
2. If HC accepts panel's findings, it could also take into consideration that prima facie a case has been established by the report. It can then commit the case to Sessions Court for trial
3. State govt moves SC claiming evidence submitted before a commission of inquiry is not admissible before a court of law

> Just as mob lynching is unacceptable, so is any idea of instant justice. At any point of time, rule of law must prevail. Punishment for the crime has to be only by the procedure established by law
> - Sirpurkar Commission report

> Grave violation of human rights by any standards - impunity is not justice for women
> - Kalpana Kannabiran, legal scholar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A Supreme Court-appointed panel that probed the alleged encounter killing of four persons in the gang-rape and murder of a young veterinarian in Hyderabad in 2019, tore into the police version of the events, saying it was "concocted", adding the suspects were "deliberately fired upon with an intent to cause their death".

Pointing out that three of the four suspects were minors, the panel headed by retired Supreme Court judge V S Sirpurkar recommended trial of 10 accused policemen for murder.

"It cannot be said that the police party fired in self-defence or in a bid to re-arrest the deceased suspects. The record shows that entire version of the police party beginning from the safe house to the incident at Chatanpally is concocted. It was impossible for the deceased suspects to have snatched the weapons of the police and they could not have operated the fire arms. Therefore, the entire version is unbelievable," the report said. "...it cannot be believed that the deceased suspects might have died due to the indiscriminate firing from the pistols allegedly snatched by them and it has to be held that all the deceased suspects died due to the injuries caused by the bullets fired by the police party. It cannot also be believed the deceased suspects opened fire towards the police," the report said. CONTINUED ON: P9

AIMED AT BRO-IN-LAW

Panic at KIA after man's bomb hoax call

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TO teach his brother-in-law a lesson for divorcing his sister, a 35-year-old man set off panic at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) by making a bomb threat call to the police control room. The accused called the police control room (112) at 3 am on Friday and said that a bomb planted at KIA would go off in 50 minutes.

The accused, Shubhashish Gupta, is from West Bengal. He came to the city a few years ago in search of a job and had previously worked in the cargo section of KIA.

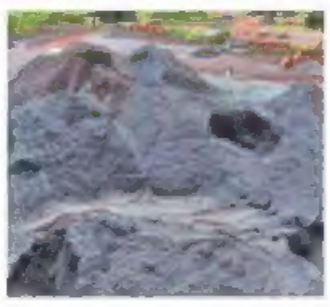
"Gupta's sister had a troubled marriage with one Deepak which ended up in a divorce. Gupta, who was upset with his brother-in-law, made the call in Deepak's name," a cop said. P3

NATIONWIDE	MAY 19	MAY 20
Fresh cases	2,364	2,258
Recoveries	2,582	2,614
Deaths	10	20
KARNATAKA	MAY 19	MAY 20
Fresh cases	124	95
Recoveries	158	155
Deaths	0	0

TAKE YOUR SHOT
May19 13,01,005 doses
May 20 13,41,844 doses

SC lifts curbs on export of iron ore in Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi



THE Supreme Court on Friday allowed mining firms to export their excavated iron ore from mines in Ballari, Chitradurga, and Tumkur districts in Karnataka.

"Keeping in mind all the aforesaid factors, we are inclined to favourably consider the prayer made by the applicants and grant them permission to sell the already excavated iron ore stock-pile at various mines and stockyards located in the districts of Ballari, Tumakuru and Chitradurga in the State of Karnataka, without having to resort to the process of e-auction," the top court said.

"Permission is granted to the applicants to enter into direct contracts to lift the excavated iron ore through interstate sales. We also grant permission to the applicants to export the iron ore and pellets manufactured from the iron ore produced from the mines situated in the State of Karnataka, to countries abroad, as is being done in the rest of the country, but strictly in terms of the extant policy of the Government of India," it added. CONTINUED ON: P4

Apex court: BBMP polls must be held in 8 weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Supreme Court on Friday set a deadline of eight weeks for the Karnataka government to clear all the hurdles to hold Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike elections and to finish the process of delimitation and reservation of 243 wards in the municipality limits. The matter has been listed for next hearing on July 22.

A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and JB Pardiwala said the state government has appointed a commission for delimitation and reservation based on Other Backward Classes in 243 wards. "The assurance given on behalf of the state is placed on record and accepted. In other words, the necessary notification of delimitation of wards and determination for reservation of local bodies/ newly constituted corporation is completed and notified no later than eight weeks from today," the bench stated in its observation.

The bench said that the State Election Commissioner can also begin the work from its end to ensure conducting of local body polls and install the new elected body under the BBMP Act of 2020. P2

Kannada in Canada parliament: MP Arya creates history

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

Chandra Arya

AT A time when Karnataka is in the doldrums over issues related to language and inclusion, and deletion of certain chapters in Class X Kannada textbook, heartening news of two-time Canada MP Chandra Arya making a speech in Kannada in the House of Commons has thrilled Kannadigas.

"I spoke in my mother tongue Kannada in the Canadian parliament. This beautiful language has a long history and is spoken by about 50 million people. This is the first time Kannada is spoken in any parliament in the world outside of India," he tweeted, attaching a 59-second video.

In his speech, Arya said, "Honourable speaker, I am happy for the opportunity to speak in Canada parliament. India's Karnataka state's Tumakuru district's Sira taluk's Dwaralu village's individual having been selected as MP and speaking in Kannada is a proud moment for over five crore Kannadigas. The Kannadigas in Canada observed the Kannada Rajyothsava in this House in 2018. I will conclude my speech with Rashtrakavi Kuvempu penned poem sung by Natasarvabhouma Dr Rajkumar 'Elladaru iru enthadaru iru endendigu nee Kannadiganagiru(wherever you are, however your are, remain Kannadiga forever. Thank you speaker." CONTINUED ON: P4

EXPRESS READ

Outsourced govt jobs: 33% quota for women

Bengaluru: The state government has reserved 33% of jobs for women, while outsourcing employees for all departments. Chief Secretary P Ravikumar has issued a circular. There are 7.2 lakh sanctioned posts and 4.6 lakh are working with the state government, including 1.5 lakh outsourced staffers. P4

7 Bangla migrants get life term for gangrape

Bengaluru: A city court has convicted 11 illegal immigrants from Bangladesh in the case involving the gangrape of a Bangladeshi woman. Seven of the convicts have been awarded life imprisonment. The incident had taken place on May 18, 2021. A video of the incident had gone viral on social media. P3

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